What is claimed is:

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1. A management method of hardware configuration information by a computer by which hardware configuration information of each device constituting the computer is managed, said management method comprising the steps of:

acquiring hardware configuration information of each device at a plurality of predetermined timing sets; and recording the acquired hardware configuration information into a predetermined nonvolatile storage

10 medium.

- 2. The management method of hardware configuration information according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
- reading out the hardware configuration information acquired in the past and recorded in the nonvolatile storage medium;

comparing the readout hardware configuration information with the acquired hardware configuration information; and

displaying the comparison result onto a predetermined display unit.

3. The management method of hardware configuration 25 information according to claim 1,

wherein the predetermined timing sets are timing at the time of executing BIOS of the computer and/or timing

after OS is activated.

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- 4. The management method of hardware configuration information according to claim 1,
- wherein the hardware configuration information includes a version number of a program related to each device.
- 5. The management method of hardware configuration 10 information according to claim 1,

wherein the computer is a client connected to a server through a network,

the server receives client hardware configuration information acquired by the client through the network, and

the server records the received hardware configuration information into the predetermined nonvolatile storage medium.

20 6. The management method of hardware configuration information according to claim 5,

wherein the hardware configuration information includes a version number of a program related to each device in the client,

the server records the most up-to-date program and a version number thereof with respect to a program related to each device in the client,

the server compares the program version number related to a predetermined device included in the received hardware configuration information with a version number of the most up-to-date program of said predetermined device, and

when the comparison results in inconsistency, the server updates the program related to said predetermined device to the most up-to-date program.

- 7. A recording medium in which a program managing
  10 hardware configuration information of each device
  constituting a computer is stored, wherein said program
  comprises:
  - a process of acquiring hardware configuration information of each device at a plurality of predetermined timing sets; and

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- a process of recording said acquired hardware configuration information into a predetermined nonvolatile storage medium.
- 8. The recording medium according to claim 7 in which said program is stored, wherein said program further comprises:
  - a process of reading out hardware configuration information which was acquired in the past and is stored in the nonvolatile storage medium;
  - a process of comparing said readout hardware configuration information with the acquired hardware

configuration information; and

a process of displaying the comparison result onto a predetermined display unit

- 9. A computer having a plurality of devices comprising: an acquisition section by which hardware configuration information of each device is acquired at a plurality of predetermined timing sets; and
- a recording section which records said acquired 10 hardware configuration information into a predetermined nonvolatile storage medium.
  - 10. The computer according to claim 9 comprising:
  - a comparison section which reads out the hardware configuration information acquired in the past and stored in the nonvolatile storage medium, and compares said readout hardware configuration information with the acquired hardware configuration information; and
- a display section which displays the comparison result 20 onto a display unit.
  - 11. The computer according to claim 9,

wherein the predetermined timing sets are timing at the time of executing BIOS and/or timing after OS is activated.

12. The computer according to claim 9,

wherein the hardware configuration information includes a version number of a program related to each device.

- 5 13. A computer connected through a network to another computer having a plurality of devices comprising:
- a reception section which receives hardware configuration information of each device acquired at a plurality of predetermined timing sets from the other computer through the network; and
  - a recording section which records said received hardware configuration information into a predetermined nonvolatile storage medium.
- 14. The computer according to claim 13, wherein the hardware configuration information includes a version number of a program related to each device, and said computer comprises:
- a comparison section which compares the version number of the program related to each device included in the hardware configuration information received from the other computer with the version number of the most up-to-date program related to said device; and

an update section which updates the program related to the device of the other computer to the most up-to-date program when the comparison results in inconsistency,

- 15. A recording medium in which a program to be executed by a computer connected through a network to another computer having a plurality of devices is stored, wherein said program comprises:
- a process of receiving hardware configuration information of each device acquired at a plurality of predetermined timing sets from the other computer through the network; and
- a process of recording said received hardware 10 configuration information into a predetermined nonvolatile storage medium.